

Subject: Roman bronze coin of Severus Alexander

Rennie, David C.
[Hanover, NH]

1934

DARTMOUTH NATIONAL BANK

CHARTERED 1865



Officers

PERLEY R. BUGBEE, PRESIDENT
ALFRED W. GUYER, VICE PRESIDENT
C. N. BATCHELDER, VICE PRES. & CASHIER
DAVID C. RENNIE, ASSISTANT CASHIER

HANOVER, N. H.

March 16, 1934

American Numismatic Society
New York City, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

We are enclosing herewith two photostatic pictures of an old Grecian gold coin of which we would like to obtain some information.

96% of its composition is pure gold and it is about the size of silver dollar.

Yours very truly,

David C. Rennie
David C. Rennie
Ass't. Cashier

DCR/P

March 19, 1934.

Mr. David C. Rennie
Dartmouth National Bank
Hanover, N. H.

Dear Sir:

The coin of which you send a photograph is Roman, about the second century A. D. By the portrait we should judge it is of the Emperor Severus Alexander. We cannot conceive how this piece is gold as this was not the type in which gold coins were struck. It is probably made of golden colored bronze. As a matter of fact there are no Roman gold coins the size of a silver dollar. Your coin is in such poor condition that it would have no value. Dealers would sell pieces like this for about five cents each.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

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HANOVER, N. H.

March 24, 1934

The American Numismatic Society
Broadway Between 155th & 156th Sts.
New York City, N. Y.

Attention: Howland Wood, Curator

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith the Roman coin which I sent you a photograph of recently. We are still of the opinion that it is of gold, although I incorrectly stated that it was about the size of a silver dollar.

Will you please furnish us with any information you may have, returning the coin to us at the same time. This information will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

David C. Rennie
Ass't. Cashier

DCR/P

March 26, 1934.

Mr. David C. Rennie
Dartmouth National Bank
Hanover, N. H.

Dear Sir:

Your favor received and I am herewith returning the Roman coin. This is made of a yellow bronze - the same metal that all of the bronze pieces were made of at that period. Just to prove the matter we have tested it with acid, which showed it was not gold. The chief reason, however, why we stated it is not gold is because no Roman coin was made in gold of this size. The largest coin that they ordinarily made weighed about \$5.00. Also the design on the back is identical with the bronze coins, and on each side of the figure are just visible the letters S C "Senatus Consultum" which was placed only on bronze coins. Again, if the piece had been gold it could never have gotten as pitted as this piece is. In other words, it was once badly corroded and has been cleaned.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator